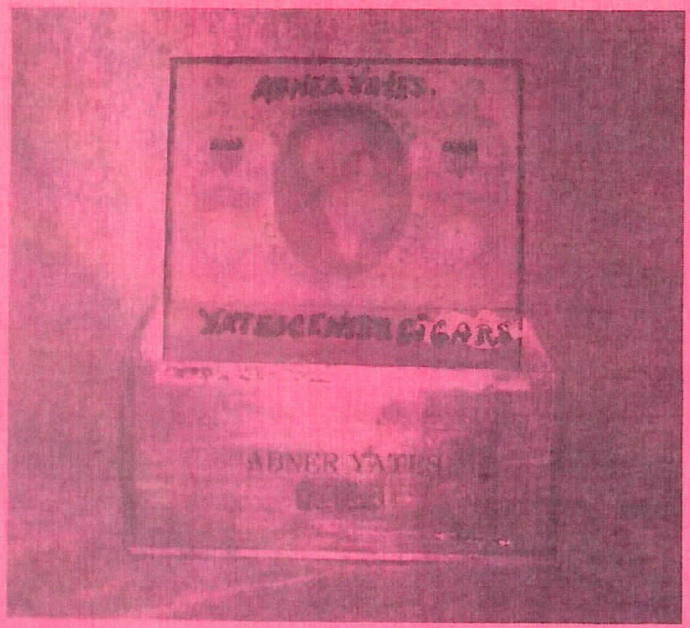
IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 15 - No. 59

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 15-No. 59 July, 1982

Lester A. Harding, Editor

Editor's Notes—

About 11 a.m. on the 5th of April, 1982, this editor along with Kenneth Stockebrand, president of the Woodson County Historical Society, Charles Lewis, member and an insurance man from Chanute, went to the Woodson Co. Historical Museum to look at some water damage done to the rug near the rest room, they were stopped just inside the door by a sight that was at first rather unbelievable, but soon realized that our Museum that we were so proud of and had taken many hours and days of volunteer labor to make it that way had been burglarized and vandalized!!

This is the sight that greeted us as we entered the Museum, with display cases moved around so the articles could be taken out. Anything under lock and glass door were smashed. The large plate glass door in the case that held the Indian collection to the right of the picture was smashed with broken glass in case and in the carpet that covers the floor. (page 2)

IN THE BEGINNING

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1968

The May meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held at the Senior Center at Toronto, May 25, 1982, with around 40 present. This was the Memorial program for the members that have passed away since last Memorial Day. Members were, Pearl D. Taylor, Alice Hogueland Lamb, Mamie Starkebaum Allen, Viola Barnes Vore, Anna Irvin Tipton, Jack Mertz, Frank Johnson, Walter E. Weide, Estil McKinsey, Milo Hakes, Wm. Ivan Smith.

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The Historical Museum was opened Saturday, Sunday and Monday afternoon's over the Memorial Day Holiday, with the Open House on Sunday afternoon with over 50 present.

The Museum will be open on Saturday and Sunday afternoon's until the first of September. The hours will be one till five.

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MUSEUM RAMSACKED —
(continued from page 1)

The gun rack was cleaned out and doctor and dentist tools were cleaned out as were many other things gone. However, we were fortunate that we went to the building that morning as the theft evidently had happened early that morning. The Yates Center police were notified, and later the Sheriff's Department, and then the K.B.I. office at Ft. Scott.

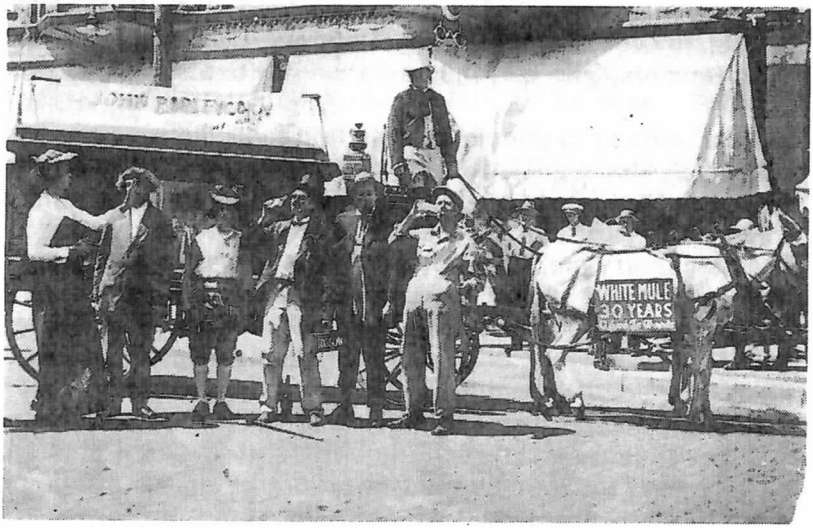
An invoice was taken to determine the value of the articles taken. Articles taken were valued at $5,560.00 and articles recovered were valued at $3,778.00.

It is thought that the break-in occured in the early hours of Monday morning and the Sheriff's office at El Dorado, notified the Woodson Co. Sheriff's office on Thursday that they had apprehended the burglars soon after they had tried to sell the guns at an antique dealer.

Not all articles stolen were recovered, but perhaps they could turn up yet. It is very hard to put values on most of the articles taken as many can never be replaced. The way we look at this the vandalism was almost as bad as the burglary as it took many hours and days of work to reclassify and then try to replace articles lost. It was also quite a cleanup task.

Join and Support The
WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Life Membership $25.00 Regular $2.00

This picture was taken during the parade at the 50th anniversary of the founding of the City of Yates Center in 1925.



This seemed to be a bad day for John Barleycorn as this group is preparing to take him to the cemetery to bury him alive. The one with the long dress on and doing the talking is Lauren Conger; the next one whose face is almost hid by the speakers hand is Francis Stocker; next in the fancy outfit is Charles Smith; next with the plug hat and bottle is Dick Plumb; Old Doc Soak, going along for the last rites is Charley Opperman; next is Errett Lamb, trying to 'kill' that bottle. Harry Ashley is in the drivers seat holding the reins for the White Mules - 30 years Aged in the Woods.

A float in the 1925 parade. Float not identified, man and woman standing together on float are Arron and Effie Stockebrand. It is thought to be Eastern Star float.

JAMES Wm. McCORMICK FAMILY —

James W. McCormick was born in Kentucky in May, 1817. As a young man he moved to Ohio, and then on to Morgan Co. Illinois. In the meantime he had met and married Miss Sarah Ruth Rannels, who was also a native of Kentucky. They were married in 1843.

After farming in Illinois and starting their family, James W. and Sarah McCormick decided to come west. In the spring of 1868, the family with a yoke of oxen, a team of horses and a wagon made the trip from Waverly, Illinois to Woodson County. Their children were, James W.G., Carrie, Henry H., Ralph Lewis and Sarah A.

Arriving in Woodson County the next step was in obtaining a suitable homestead. This homestead was 80 acres, the south half of the Southwest quarter of Sec. 8, Twp. 25, and Range 17. This was located just 9½ miles due east of present Yates Center.

James W. McCormick died in 1895 and his wife Sarah R. died the next year, 1896.

While we would like to tell about all three boys in the family, and may later, but for now we will take up about the youngest, Ralph Lewis McCormick. He was born in Morgan County, Illinois, in 1853, being about 15 years old when coming to Woodson County. Ralph L. stayed on the homestead after the death of his parents.

In 1887, Ralph L. was married to Miss Nettie Bell Scott.

Four children were born to them on this farm, Anna, Arthur, Hazel and a boy Homer who died as a small child.

Ralph L. and Nettie McCormick decided to leave Kansas, and sold the old homestead in 1896 to Harvey Cummings, and moved to Waverly, Illinois. Here two more children were born to them, Helen and Grace. After several years of farming in Illinois they moved again, coming back to Woodson County, Kansas where they purchased the Southwest quarter of Sec. 27, Twp. 24, Range 15, in Dec., 1902. This was the headquarters of what was known as the Wm. Cooper Ranch, with North Owl Creek running through it, three miles north of Yates Center.

Here four more children were born; Ralph, Mabel, Winnefred and Ester. Ralph Lewis passed away, and Mrs. McCormick with her family and help of a hired man continued on the farm until it was sold in 1937.

* * * * * *

The children of Ralph and Nettie Bell McCormick and who they married.

Anna married W. C. Stephens in 1909. They had one daughter Elenore. After the death of Stephens Anna married Walter Freeman. They had a daughter Lila.

Aurthur married Edie Bacon. Their children were, Arthur Richard, Helen and Shirley.

Hazel married James Green. Their children were, Betty Jo and Jimmie.

Helen married John Woodward, they had one daughter, Nettie Jean.

Grace married Fred Stockebrand, two daughters, Norma Jean and Patty Lou.

Ralph married Mattie Whittaker. Their children were, Irene, Ralph Edward, Harry O.

Mabel married Butler Hurley. They had no children.

Winnefred married Harley Mentzer. Their children were, Ruth Ann and Ralph.

Esther married Jerry Hodge. They had a daughter Peggy Sue.

The Ralph Lewis McCormick Family. Standing in back row, left to right are, Grace, Hazel, Arthur, Anna, and Helen. Sitting are Ralph L. and wife Nettie, who is holding Esther. Standing between them is Mabel with Winnefred sitting between the parents, and Ralph standing on the end.

AT RANDOM —

ABNER YATES, was a gentleman of the old school-a tall slender man, courteous, pleasant, who passed the last years of his life with a daughter, the wife of John Dobyns, a merchant on the square, in their home on the corner of Main and Mary. Mary our widest street, is named for his wife. (The present U.S.-54). Their life together was serene and beautiful.

After his death there was found, in his unpretentious office in a small wooden building on the north side of the square, upstairs that one mounted outside steps to reach, a bundle of quill pens sharpened to precision. They were on the closed desk of an ancient secretary that was the principal article of the office furniture. The floor was bare. Those quills bore testimony that the founder of Yates Center was a man who clung to his memories of long ago when he and Abraham Lincoln rode in a stage coach together, before his dream of founding a town on the prairies of Kansas came true.

* * * * * *

J. ALEX LYNN, was born in Kentucky in 1850, coming to Woodson County in 1864, with his parents. Later he chose the profession of a country school teacher. He taught seven terms in Woodson County schools. Two six months winter terms were taught at the Dry Creek, District 12, in the western part of the county. This was during the winters of 1873 and 1874, with a salary of $40.00 and $45.00 respectfully. School was held in an old log house, that was evidently a claim house of some early settler at one time. It was located very near the creek, the north end of the house toward the creek. At one time a fire place had been in this end, but had been boarded up before the first term Lynn taught there. This was torn down, boarded up and was heated with a large stove.

At that time the district was 3 miles wide and 11 miles long and extended along the creek. This strip of land had been taken from the District No. 2, about five years before this.

This log school house was we believe just to the west of where the stone school house was built soon after this term of 1874, by squire Robert Daly.

The district was mostly an Irish settlement, with names of Geraughty, Shea, Neiman, Keeneys, Norris and Daly.

During the two winters Mr. Lynn taught here he killed five deer along the creek, killing two with one shot with a muzzle loading shotgun, using 6 Number 4 buckshot. Most of the above information was given to us around forty years ago by Otis Lynn about his father Alex. A daughter Ruth married Glenn Briles.

THE ERNEST STOCKEBRAND FAMILY —

(In Vol. I, No. 4, of In The Beginning, we told about the four German young men that settled in Owl Creek area just to the north of where Yates Center now stands. We told some about the Wm. Stockebrand family and will now try and tell about Ernest Stockebrand and his son Ernest.)

Ernest Stockebrand, Sr., was born in Lippe-Detmold, Germany, where the Stockebrands had lived for generations. He was born there in January, 27, 1825. When 28 years old he and three others. William, his youngest brother, August Lauber, who later married a sister, Louisa Stockebrand, and another brother-in-law, August Toedman came to America and stopped for awhile in Illinois. In the spring of 1857, they came by rail to Jefferson City, Mo., where they took a boat to Kansas City. They made their way to Lawrence, Kans. they purchased a yoke of oxen and a wagon, loaded their few possessions and headed for Woodson County.

After leaving Franklin County there were no regular roads, only trails across the prairie. They had been preceded here by an acquaintance they knew in Germany, Ernest Linder, who had arrived here early in the spring of 1857.

In January, 1861, Ernest Stockebrand was married to Miss Mary Stange, who had come here in 1860. They were recorded as residents of Belmont township, and were married by Rudolph Dubbs - Minister of the Gospel. Dubbs had a homestead on lower Owl Creek and was pastor of the Humboldt Mission, which when started the members were all living in Woodson County.

Ernest and Mary Stockebrand were the parents of eight children, Ernest W., Charles A., Julious, Louisa, Mary, Justin, Paulina and Anna. Ernest married Anna Beanway. Charles married Emma Kerstin; Julious is unknown.

Louisa married Gustave Weide; Mary married William Weide; Justin married Ed Light; Pauline never married.

These brothers and brother-in-laws took turns in going by oxen and wagon every few weeks or months to Kansas City or Leavenworth for supplies. This would take several days. On one occasion when it was time for Ernest, Sr. to go to Kansas City his wife and baby son Ernest W. were staying in the cabin alone. Indians were rather common to these early pioneers along this part of Owl Creek and in the shelter of the black-jacks over the hillsides, but on this occasion Mrs. Stockebrand took her baby son and hid in the cornfield. After spending several hours in the heat of the sun and having a difficult time in going through the tall grass, brush and timber she resolved

to go back to the cabin and let come what may as she was exhausted. The Indians never came to bother them.

Ernest Stockebrand and wife Mary.

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For this time we will just take up the story of Ernest W. Stockebrand Jr. He was born in the original log cabin on his fathers homestead on a high place at the north side of the claim, where they could overlook the Owl Creek lowlands. Here he grew up in the pioneer days of Kansas. He was born Jan. 24, 1862.

Ernest W. was married to Miss Anna E. Beanway on Sept. 18, 1887. She was a native of Germany and had come to America and Woodson County in 1870. She was born Sept. 14, 1863, coming to America when she was about seven years old, with her mother Minnie, a sister Carolina and a small brother Ernest Beanway. The mother Minnie Beanway had a brother Ludwig Miller who had come to Woodson Co. about 1870 and settled on Turkey Creek.

In early 1871, Minnie Beanway was married to John Light. The first schooling for Anna Beanway was in the log school house at Askren District No. 2. Along with her sister were enrolled there in May, 1871, when she was seven years old and her sister was eleven. Their last name was given as Light at that time.

Ernest W. and Anna E. Stockebrand started their married life in Yates Center. Ernest W. had quit farming and went into business in Yates Center in 1886, for the next 36 years.

They were the parents of five children, namely Edward W., Louis, Ernest, Elmer P, and Ruth. One child died in infancy.

Their children and families.

Edward W., married Edith Weide. Their children were Milton Edward, Maynard L., Warren Kenneth, Wendall (Pete), Gerald D. (Deed), Larry, Naoma Ann, Nadine, Jean, Gwendlyn, and Judy.

Milton E. married Alberta Coltrane.

Maynard L. married Lottie Mabie.

W. Kenneth married Barbara Abbott.

Wendall married Zelma Newman Lawless.

Gerald married Betty Gustin Sowder.

Larry never married.

Naoma Ann married Lloyd Coltrane.

Nadine never married.

Thelma Jean married Joe Kline.

Gwendlyn married Dick Tucker.

Judy married Dean Swibold.

* * * * * *

Louis E. married Alice Weide. Their children were Norman, Louis E. Jr., Thomas, Myron, and Marilee.

Norman married Maxine Sutton; Thomas married Marie Carson; Myron married Gloria Fors.

Marilee married Robert VanWye.

* * * * * *

Elmer P. married Olive Brenner. They had one son.

* * * * * *

Ruth married Fred Baursfeld. Their children were Margaret, Ruth Ann and Katherine Jane.

* * * * * *

Anna E. Stockebrand passed away Feb. 6, 1909 at the age of 45, leaving Ernest W. and the four children.

In Nov. 1913, Ernest W. was married to Anna B. Scholz. Ernest W. died Feb. 10, 1935, and Anna B. died Oct. 4, 1935. All three are buried in the Yates Center Cemetery.

The story of the large store of Stockebrand and Stockebrand was told in the October, 1981 issue-Vol. 14, No. 56- of In The Beginning. This large building on the southeast corner of the square was built in 1904. Ernest Stockebrand was instrumental in getting this store built and for several years he and his three sons, Edward, Louis and Elmer operated the Stockebrand and Stockebrand Department Store. Ernest sold out to his cousin Henry Stockebrand.

Later this store was changed into a hardware as the Light and Opperman Hardware and later as the Light Hardware Store.

Wedding Picture of Ernest W. Stockebrand and Anna Beanway.

Seated from the left are Anna E. (Scholz) and Ernest W. Standing, left to right are Elmer P., Ruth C., Edward W., and Louis E.

WOODSON COUNTY TEACHER'S MEETING

School Boards Cordially Invited

Methodist Episcopal Church, Yates Center, Kansas

February 7, 1920, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Teachers Association Officers

President ..... Pearl W. Winterscheid
Vice President ..... Elizebeth E. Harper
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Lois Carter

Elizebeth Spencer, County Superintendent.

Cafeteria Luncheon Christian Church Basement.

MAIN AUDITORIUM 10:30 a.m.

Community Singing, led by Esther P. Swart, Supervisor of Music Yates Center Schools.

Sectional Meetings

Rural School Section; Lois Carter, New York Valley, presiding.

Report on Teacher's Association at Wichita, Nov. 8-9
Martha B Myers, North Maple Grove.

Community Life in Rural Districts ..... Sibyl Sager
Dramatization and Art in Rural Schools ..... Bessie Walker, Defiance.

GRADE SCHOOL SECTION: Elizebeth E. Harper, Yates Center Presiding

Ways of Securing Interest and Good Order in the Grades — Delphine Lynn, Neosho Falls

Importance of Dramatization in the Lower Grades — Ruth Augustine, Yates Center

Hints and Value of Supplementary English in Grade Schools — Effie Adkins, Toronto

"Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight" — Maudie Gillette, Grade 6, Lincoln School

"Initiation" — Virgie Mills, Gr. 6, Lincoln School

HIGH SCHOOL SECTION: Roy Green, Neosho Falls, Presiding

Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. in High Schools — Supt. Geo. L. Atkeson, Yates Center Schools

Importance of Literary Club Work in Schools — Rev. R. E. Gordon, Neosho Falls

Recreation Outside School Hours — Supt. Bertha Harris, Toronto

Wm. T. (BUY IT OF BILL) MATHEWS —

W. T. (Bill) Mathews was one of a family of 11 brothers and sisters, of Dan and Victoria, living in the Waverly, Kansas area. This family of 11 were as follows: Lottie (Fogg), Molly (McDuffie), Sue (Chamberlain), Margaret (Weidner), Lou (Claypool), Irene (David), Maud (Price), Charlie, William, Dan and Johnnie, the latter died as a boy.

Bill Mathews came to Yates Center in about 1898. He was working as a section hand on the railroad and decided that this was a place to go into business. His first attempt in business for himself was a small hand-laundry located somewhere to the north of the old Star Theater, where the present U.S. Post Office is located. In time this business proved to be quite successful, keeping the family occupied. Brother Dan was kept busy delivering laundry in his horse-drawn laundry wagon.

This picture is of the Mathews Steam Laundry in Yates Center, taken October 28, 1902. Standing to the left side of the door was W.T. (Bill), with two of his sisters and brother Dan with his horse and laundry wagon.

Here in Yates Center Bill met Clara Baldwin, and in 1901 they were married. Clara was a half-sister to Frank Butler a well-known business man around the square.

Bill eventually sold the laundry and soon opened a man's clothing store on the northwest corner of the square, across the street east from the Woodson Hotel. Bill started in business with a dry-goods box of clothing and gents furnishings. By judicious advertising and careful selection of goods and square dealing, became one of the best equipped clothing stores in southeast Kansas., known as BUY IT OF BILL.

BUY IT OF BILL never overlooked the chance to do a good turn for the boys and girls of Woodson County. Christmas 1912, Bill entertained more than 200 boys and girls to a free Christmas Movie. (Picture and story on page 15)

Bill and Clara Mathews, were the parents of five children namely. Frank, Carl, Clarence L., Katherine, and Margaret Jane.

Frank married Lois Sanders.

Carl married Sybil Timermuer.

Clarence married Luriel Randall. Their children are Larry and Janis.

Katherine married Robert Whittaker. They have no children.

Margaret Jane married Everett Hayes.

Family picture of the Mathews family. Front row at left, Mrs. Clara Mathews, Wm. T., Katherine and Margaret Jane. Back row from left, Carl, Clarence and Frank.

After much success there seemed to be a pitfall awaiting him. Soon thereafter Bill was quoted as saying: "Lost 15 years savings by stepping on a slippery politician and falling into the Yates Center National Bank failure in December, 1913."

Bill being down but not without friends, opened another Man's clothing store known as BUY IT OF BILL - On THE SOUTH SIDE IN THE MIDDLE. His three boys were raised in this store., Frank, Carl and Clarence.

During the mid 1920's the KKK,(Klu Klux Klan) became quite active in and around Yates Center. BUY IT OF BILL did not agree with the activities of the KKK and did not hesitate to make his thoughts known. The KKK proceeded to boycott his store and he closed the store in 1929.

In the meantime Bill and his wife Clara were making Men's made-to order dress shirts - having enlarged and enclosed the back porch on their home (the old stone school house on W. Rutledge). They employed four local women in the manufacture of these skirts. Bill spent much of his time on the road measuring selected customers for these shirts all over Kansas.

In the mid-thirties with his family grown-up and homes of their own Bill became Superintendent of the laundry at the Reformitory in Hutchinson, leaving Yates Center.

Wm. T. and Clara Mathews.

Picture of W.T. Mathews Christmas Group of 1912, taken from the Yates Center News. It is the boys and girls this popular Clothing merchant entertained at the Peerless Theater and a happier, jollier bunch you never saw. They enjoyed the pictures and the music and are now enthusiastic rooters for "Buy it of Bill"

BENJAMIN J. NIKKEL and FAMILY. —

Many of the Nikkel families have a Benjamin in the family and to separate them a middle initial is used. This Benj. J. Nikkel was born and raised in the Mennonite village of Niederchoritz, in Southern Russia, Jan. 10, 1840. In March, 1863, Benj. J. was married to Helena Neufeld. They were the parents of three children namely, Helena, Aganetha and Katherina. The mother Helena died in May 1874. On Feb 29, 1876, Benj. was married to Augusta Vogt.

Shortly after their marriage Benj., wife Augusta and his three small daughters embarked for America, arriving in New York Harbour, June 22, 1876. They came direct to Kansas where others of their group had come. They came to Marion County, but for some reason everything did not go well for them so they came to Woodson County in the fall of 1876.

Benj. J., purchased 80 acres from the M.K.&T. (Katy) railroad. This was the south 80 acres of the southwest quarter of Sec. 3, Twp. 24, Range 14. for which he paid $200 for. They built a sod house along a small stream that empties into Turkey Creek. Benj. J. received the deed for his 80 acres in 1880. Their first son, Benjamin F. was born in this shanty in Dec., 1876. In a few years ten more children were born in this house.

The dates given in these records do not always correspond, as the date given that Benj. J. leaving Woodson County was several years before the dates given his children as being born here. When they moved it was to Corn, Oklahoma Territory, where Benj. J. and wife Augusta passed away.

The three oldest daughters were married in the Nikkeltown area, possibly the stone schoolhouse as that was the church for these Mennonite Brethern.

Helena, the eldest was married June 6, 1883, to Johann Krause. We will tell about them in a separate story.

Aganetha was married Nov. 12, 1883, to Jacob Cornelson.

Katherina was married to Peter W. Janzen, Nov. 4, 1883. Her husband Peter W. was a son of Wilhelm and Maria (Neufeld) Janzen.

As mentioned above, Benjamin F., was the first son, and the first child born in this sod house on this 80 acres, that was 7 miles north and almost 7 miles west from Yates Center. This was the home of Gail and Luella (Neufeld) Edwards for over 50 years.

Ten more children of Benj. and Augusta Nikkel were as follows, Elizebeth, born Feb. 21, 1878.

Johannes P. born Dec. 24, 1879; Franz or Frank, born Mar. 10, 1880; Cornelious F. born April 16, 1882; in Butler County; Annie Nikkel, born Oct. 6, 1883.

Maria Nikkel, born Mar. 6, 1885; Bertha Nikkel, born July 28, 1886; Ida Nikkel, born April 18, 1888; Martha Nikkel, born Aug. 28, 1890; and Ferdinand born Feb. 3, 1893. All of these ten children except Cornelious were listed as being born in Woodson County.

The youngest Ferdinand was a normal, healthy youngster, but as a teenager, became badly handicapped as the result of an accident. One day at local picnic some boys in this community played a trick on him, and loosened the saddle on his pony just before he was about to start a pony race. The saddle slid over, Ferd fell, and was badly trampled beneath the feet of the pony. He became a puny, handicapped boy, both physically and mentally. He stopped going to school and did not even attend church, because he was "too nervous". He was cared for the rest of his life by his parents and later by his sister Ida.

Ida never married and as mentioned above spent the greater part of her life, after moving from Kansas, to the caring for her brother Ferdinand.

Rather a startling story is told about Bertha Nikkel and her first "death", from which she recovered. Bertha "died" as a young girl on the farm. She was washed and dressed for burial and laid out in the front room of the house, as was the custom in those days before the age of funneral parlors. After about thirty-six hours, her sister Annie came into the room, mourning her sisters passing. Suddenly dead Bertha's arm dropped over the side of her bed, and she opened her eyes. Miraculously Betha returned to life. She lived on to the age of twenty-five.

Standing in this picture is Ida Nikkel and sitting is Bertha Nikkel both whose story is told on the preceding page. Bertha died in Corn, Oklahoma in 1911.

* * * * * *

Down through the years we have written quite a lot about the German Russian Mennonites that settled in what was known as the Nikkeltown area fourteen miles to the northwest of Yates Center, but we never had a complete list of them nor anything about the families.

Recently, a family history book had been published about these people in Woodson County and in Marion and surrounding counties. With permission from the publisher we will tell more about these people as they were living in-sod shanties over the prairie of Woodson County over a hundred years ago.

A couple of years ago we gave permission for the editor putting the book together to use what we had written about this colony and their sod shanties.

* OLD CATTLE TRAILS *

(This story about the old cattle trails was written by the late R. H. Trueblood, Editor and publisher of the Yates Center New, quite a few years ago.)

A few days ago it was my good fortune to ride over some of the cattle trails of Woodson County where in the early days large bunches of cattle were driven or herded along the creeks where there was plenty of water. Over on Cedar Creek and Brazil, J. M. Baldwin then one of the largest cattle shippers in the county, herded several hundred head. In the evenings they were rounded up down in the valley where an unprovised corral had been made near the herder's cabin.

The cabin was on wheels and could be moved at any time. Old Tinker McDonald was on the job as herder part of the time. Some of the older residents will remember Tinker. He was a Portugese. His skin was black but that was all. He had as kind a heart as ever beat in any man's breast. He was employed by Mr. Baldwin in various capacities for many years. But cattle feeding was his speciality. Good Old Tinker has long since gone where there are no cattle trails and campfires and no howls of prowling coyotes and no stampedes on rainy nights.

* * *

Wm. Cooper, of South Liberty, also had each summer a bunch of cattle on the range in the west part of the county, and Dick Gatlin — You old timers — do you remember Dick Gatlin? Hunch back though he was a cattle man from — not from the far west — but from the lone prairies of Woodson County, where for several miles nothing could be seen but rolling prairie and herds of cattle that grazed in the hills and valley with a herder not far away.

Mr. Baldwin used to buy cattle down in the Indian Territory and drove them through Chautauqua, Elk and Wilson Counties and into Woodson County near the homes of the Harps and the Jewitts, Gregorys and Henleys lived. Here is where the riders from the home ranch would pick up a bunch of cattle and drive them across the open spaces where Batesville is across Owl Creek out by what was then the Bender farm — not Kate — later owned by the Wachtmans.

* * *

The last drive I helped make was with Elisha Baldwin, the only son of the big cattleman. We picked the cattle up at Jim Gregorys and drove them straight north to the Baldwin Ranch on Turkey Creek. It was nearly midnight we two boys in our middle teens drove the cattle into the corral. Tired? That is a mild term. But we brought in the cattle, and that was a man's job, two men's job — and two boys did it.

The cattle trail across the county then was pretty well defined. No fences, no nothing. Oh, yes, there were rattlers a plenty, and a few wolves, but the latter were harmless. The rattlers were not.

* * *

I remember one old he rattler we found on the trail out in what is known now as West Center. We found him in a draw on a big flat rock and he was 16 feet long — looked like it to us — and showed fight. We tackled him with our cattle whips and he put up a winning fight. He was still there when we quit the game.

That same day and near the place one of the steers got tired, or rather too hot, and decided he would go no farther. He got sullen — balked — wouldn't budge. We whipped him, we tried to ride up on him, but like the boy on the burning deck, he would not move. He could — and did — take punishment, but there he stood and held the bunch of cattle for more than an hour — then like a good steer, quietly walked right along with his big brothers. (Old Tinker McDonald spent about as much time working at the Crandall Ranch as he did with Baldwin. Tinker and his wife and small son are all buried in the Little Sandy Cemetery.)

(Dick Gatlin who worked for Wm. Cooper was a hunched back that was as much a horseman as he was a cattleman. The story was told that he rode his horse onto the top the large rocks at Coppers Cave and made him jump from one of the rocks across to another one. If so he hardly had space to stop and turn around after jumping the five or six feet wide crevice.

* * * * * *

Seven miles north of Yates Center is a sign pointing east to Vernon and one pointing west to Virgil. During the late 1880's and 1890's, hundreds of cattle were driven over this road. The Neosho River was crossed at Neosho Falls as every spring cattle would be brought from around Metz and Butler, Missouri, by way of Lone Elm and Geneva, going on west to the head of Dry Creek just to the east of Virgil. In the fall these herds would be driven back to Mo. to winter there.

For two or three years around 2,000 sheep were brought over this trail with headquarters around the Dry Creek Cave.

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Cover picture is Cigar box with Abner Yates name and picture. We have saw two of these boxes, but have been told that Abner Yates never smoked nor made cigars. He may have backed some one who made cigars in Yates Center.

PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto·
Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
HiWay Food Basket
Piqua Farmers Co-op
Gaulding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.
The Herring Families
Clyde Hill
Steiner's Sundries
Yates Center News
Artex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Gambles Hardware & Home Furnishings
Glen Shaw
Wilma Mark
Loren & Rita Cantrell
Pringle Ranch, J. Richard Pringle
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Edwin H. Bideau Associated Agency, Chanute
First National Bank, Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co., Inc.
Yates Center Elevator
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Herman
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Jaynes Insurance Agency
Al's Jewelry
Linde Barber Shop
Ken Kimbell
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
Elmer E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Campbell Funeral Home
Glen & Zola Baker
Piqua State Bank
Thomas Wilson
Rex Butler, Nashville, TN
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO